

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1094

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP, GE

SUBJECT TRAVEL OF CONGRESSMAN STEIGER

REF: (A) BERLIN 5930; (B) STATE 152698

1. ECON/COMMERCIAL OFFICER PARKER MET AND ASSISTED CONGRESSMAN STEIGER JULY 20 AT SCHOENEFELD AIRPORT DURING THE LATTER'S TWO-HOUR STOPOVER ENROUTE FROM LENIN-GRAD TO BELGRADE.

2. IN THIS CONNECTION, THE DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO NOTE THAT CONGRESSMAN STEIGER DID NOT NEED A GDR VISA TO TRANSIT SCHOENEFELD. BECAUSE, HOWEVER, THE CONGRESSMAN HAD A WASHINGTON-ISSUED GDR "SERVICE VISA" IN HIS PASSPORT, GDR IMMIGRATION AUTHORITIES FELT COMPELLED TO ADMIT HIM INTO THE GDR AND THEN PROCESS HIM OUT OF THE COUNTRY, TWO TIME-CONSUMING OPERATIONS. THE INCONVENIENCE TO THE CONGRESSMAN WAS MINOR; BUT HIS TRANSIT WOULD HAVE BEEN CONSIDERABLY SMOOTHER HAD HE NOT HAD A GDR VISA.

3. OF COURSE, TRAVELERS WHO WISH TO BE ADMITTED INTO THE GDR ON ARRIVAL AT SCHOENEFELD FOR WHATEVER BRIEF PERIOD SHOULD CONTINUE TO BE PROVIDED WITH VALID GDR VISAS. COOPER

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